

THE TEXAN

The Marine Corps League Texas
www.txmcl.org



Message from the Department Commandant

I am proud to announce the Department of Texas has resurrected our newsletter and renamed it, "The Texan". I implore every detachment to overwhelm our editor with content so she can make it the best newsletter in the nation. I want to thank our department public relations team and especially the chief editor Ericka Hedlin for making this happen. I hope y'all enjoy The Texan!

-Patrick Murray
Commandant – Department of Texas



DID YOU KNOW...

MCL chief operating officer is updating the MCL app (available in your App Store). All members are requested to get with your Detachment Paymasters to obtain your Profile ID numbers. You will need this number in the future to log into the app once updates are made.

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If your Member Number currently starts with a letter, the numbers are your Profile ID. Example:

Member R123456 has Profile ID 123456. If you have any questions, direct them through your chain of command.

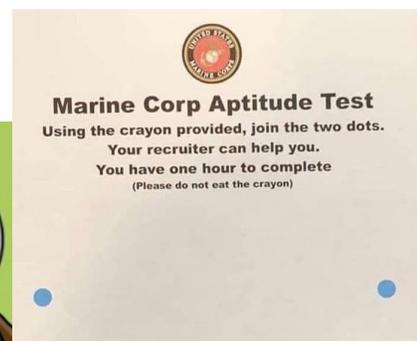
Here's an amazing app for Marine Corps League



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Texas State Website
SCAN ME





100th National Convention



SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW PERSONALIZED VIDEO OF CONVENTION!





IT'S HISTORY!

MCLEMORE RECLAIMS

Houston, Texas (September 11, 2023) – The Marine Veterans Association was founded on November 10, 1922, as chartered by 75th U.S. Congress and was later renamed the Marine Corps League (MCL). It was recently discovered through a vigorous historical records review that the local McLemore Detachment #324 based in Houston, Texas had lost its numbering and place of recognition over time as being among the first four detachments established in New York in 1924, the first being New York City's Detachment #1.

“The renumbering of the McLemore Detachment to #4 from #324 is a significant honor for the State of Texas and recognition for the United States Marine Corps and the Marine veteran community,” said Patrick Murray, Commandant for the Department of Texas Marine Corps League.

Audio news brief: <https://tinyurl.com/texasmarinecorpsleague> (Sound Cloud 1:31 min.)

Two other founding detachments #2 and #3 had been disbanded due to attrition, leaving the McLemore Marines cadre named after decorated Marine Colonel Albert Sydney McLemore, among the first and oldest in the nation. As part of the records discovery, the original McLemore Marines tapestry with symbol art, was also found and features aged and worn colorful embroidery work that the organization plans to bring back to life for active use. The tradition of tapestry may be traced to the French General Napoleon in recognition of his finest units who fought historic battles. In the Marines, battle colors are a symbol of heritage and valor in battle.

Warren Griffin, National Commandant of the Marine Corps League said, “We are proud to recognize one of our longest standing Marine Corps League founding detachments.” The State of Texas Marine Corps League will be organizing a recognition and formal ceremony at their state convention on October 7th to officially renumber the historic detachment which has served our community for so long.

Department of Texas Senior Vice Commandant Tony Poletti said, “The McLemore Detachment remains a valid testament for Marine Corps League, remaining in good standing since its original charter. Verification could not have been accomplished without the hard work provided by numerous individuals who searched for and collected evidence that allowed me to write the documents to support and prove the historical span.”





Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Plano, General Eric Smith graduated from Texas A&M University and was commissioned in 1987. He has commanded at every level, including Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia; 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and 8th Marine Regiment/ Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also served in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the U.S. Military Group.

As a General Officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Smith's staff assignments as a General Officer include serving as the Director of Capability Development Directorate, Combat Development and Integration; Senior Military Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense; and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration. His most recent assignment was a 36th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.



Gen. Eric Smith is sworn in as the 39th Marine commandant by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, Sept. 22, 2023 in the Pentagon. (Marine Corps)

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The 39th

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Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq.

According to Catherine: The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change.

The message of my dream was:

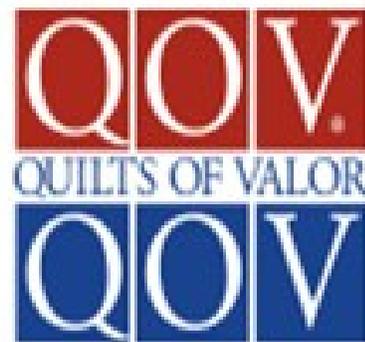
I have been working with Quilts of Valor for the past 5 years. I received my quilt on 9/15/2019. Since then, I have worked with Quilts of Valor to try and get quilts out to our veterans who have been touched by the horrors of combat. Whether it is at a golf tournament, a veteran gathering, National Vietnam War Veterans Day or just a simple gathering at a veterans home. My mission is their mission,

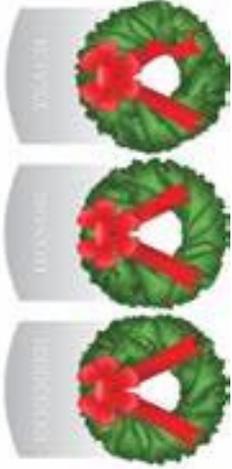
QOVF celebrated another award milestone recently by awarding the 350,000th Quilt of Valor® to Representative Jason Crow (CO-06), a former Army Ranger and Bronze Star Recipient. QOVF area leaders gathered to honor and award Rep. Crow his Quilt of Valor on May 4, 2023. This is a National organization and I concentrate on awarding quilts in Maine,



Charles Paul (Recipient)

The Quilts of Valor Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation. We consider it our privilege to do so. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America, we award you this Quilt of Valor as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation.





Wreaths Across America established the Veterans Remembrance Tree Program as another way to remember and honor our veterans. As Gold Star families visited the land in Columbia Falls, Maine, where the balsam tips are harvested each year to be made into the wreaths that are placed on veterans' graves, they found a sense of peace and tranquility from the land. The Remembrance Tree Program gives them a living memorial to their loved one.

Each family can contact us and give information on their loved one. The family is taken out to the balsam tip land to find a tree that will become their living memorial to their loved one, where they can place the tag on the trunk of an evergreen tree of their choosing. The trees are kept in production and their balsam tips are harvested every three years and made in veteran's wreaths that are placed each December.

"We created the Veteran Remembrance Tree Program because we wanted to find a way to recognize veterans and their families in a more permanent way," explains Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America. "This endless forest is a truly visual representation of our unwavering commitment to our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach and to recognize our veterans and families this year and for many years to come."

Many of our detachments, along with other veteran organizations, participated in laying wreaths on the graves of our Veterans.

Wreaths Across America is located at 4 Point St, Columbia Falls, ME 04623

WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA





In Romans 8:25 we find

"if we wait for what we do not have, we wait patiently"

Hope seems so abstract. The English language is partly at fault for that. We use the word hope casually, from dreams about our future to long shots on our Christmas lists and New Years expectations. We hope for rain or sunshine, for a raise, for good health, for good luck, or for anything our heart can set its fickle desires on. But Biblical hope is not so abstract. It expresses future certainty. In the Bible, hope is placed in things that are guaranteed but simply have not happened yet. It's the reality that is to come.

Since that's the case, we don't persevere because we "hope" God might work things out for good one day in the future, if we're lucky. We persevere because He has made a promise, and His promises cannot be broken. If God has sacrificed His Son on a cross and then given us His Spirit as a pledge of future glory, the future glory is concrete reality. The only difference between God's past miracles and His future promises is timing, not truth. One is just as real as the other. The word of a gentleman is his honor; the word of our God is the word of the ultimate gentleman.

It's wonderful to have hope as it's a positive and optimistic attitude to believe that everything is going to be alright. However, there is a difference between wishing and knowing. But Jesus Christ the Son of God not only came to bring hope, He is literally our only Hope. This means that unless He is our Lord and Savior, we do not have a hope of becoming what Jesus died for us to be or the promise of eternal life. When we are born-again and become a child of God we are given a type of hope that allows us to rest in the reality that He is the absolute truth and everything He has guaranteed will come to pass. When He declares that He can not only redeem us, but we can spend eternity in Heaven with Him, we have a blessed assurance that means more than any dream or aspiration the world can offer. Christ in us is the hope of glory as we surrender our will to God in the reality of knowing Him as our eternal spiritual Father.

If you have been stressed lately and your prayer life has recognized more negative resistance than usual, then congratulations, you are perfectly normal. We are indeed distracted, but much of our stress is our own fault. No one is making us watch television, play games, or be absorbed in social media. We should understand that living a holy and obedient life before God is difficult enough without us refusing to take our responsibility to stay focused seriously. Scanning the headlines we know there are a lot of strange things going on in the world. I'm often asked about my thoughts pertaining to Biblical prophecy including the topics of rapture and tribulation? I realize that most everyone has speculations and interpretations, but let's just say that God is in control and everything is moving according to His perfect will.

Semper Fi

Reverend Gary Clevenger





Heritage Foundation Releases 2023 Index of U.S. Military Strength, Gives U.S. Military First-Ever ‘Weak’ Overall Rating

For the first time, The Heritage Foundation's Index of U.S. Military Strength finds that as currently postured, the U.S. military is rated "weak" and at significant risk of not being able to meet the demands of a single major regional conflict while attending to various presence and engagement activities.

- **Army: Marginal** The U.S. Army is aging faster than it is modernizing, receiving an overall "Marginal" rating. A force only about 62% the size it should be earns the service a "weak" rating for capacity. Funding uncertainties may threaten abilities to realize its goals.
- **Navy: Weak** The Navy is rated "weak," declining from "marginal" in 2022. Competitors are quickly narrowing the technology gap in their favor as the Navy's ships decrease in numbers and abilities. Uncertainty that the administration and Congress will provide funding to combat these significant deficiencies leaves much up for question.
- **Marine Corps: Strong** The Marine Corps rating remains "strong" from the 2022 Index rating. The score remains for two reasons: 1) The threshold for capacity decreased from 36 infantry battalions to 30 battalions in acknowledgment of the Corps' argument that it is a one-war force that also stands ready for a broad range of smaller crisis-response tasks, and 2) because of the Corps' extraordinary efforts to modernize and enhance its readiness during the assessed year. Lack of adequate funding has driven the Corps to pay for its modernization efforts at the expense of capacity, resulting in a reduction of infantry battalions to just 22 this year with plans to reduce to 21 in fiscal year 2023.
- **Air Force: Very Weak** This Air Force rating is a downgrade from an assessment of "weak" in the 2022 Index. Aging aircraft and poor pilot training and retention continue to degrade the ability of the Air Force to generate quality combat air power needed to meet wartime requirements. It would be difficult for the Air Force to respond rapidly to a crisis and dominate airspace without increased pilot training and numbers of fifth-generation weapon systems. Space Force: Weak.
- **Space Force: Weak** The Space Force rating is measured as "weak" not due to lack of expertise but because capacity of the service falls short of the demands placed on it. While the Space Force has transitioned missions from other services without interruption in support, it does not have enough assets to track and manage the explosive growth in commercial and competitor-country systems being placed in orbit. The force also lacks defensive and offensive counter-space capabilities.

DID YOU KNOW?



UPCOMING EVENTS

MCL Southern National
Midwinter Conference
February 22-24, 2024
Arlington, VA

MCL Southern Division Conference
March 15-16, 2024
Texarkana, AR

2024 National Convention
August 12-16, 2024
Palm Springs, CA

Southern Division web address
<https://mclsouth.org>

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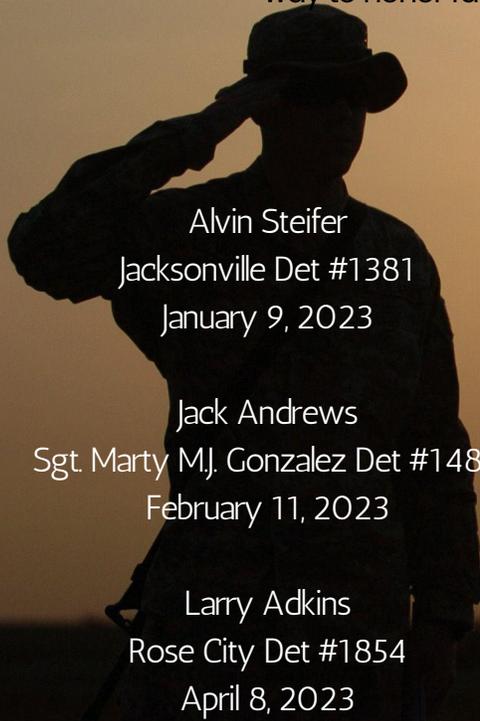
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Halls of VALHALLA

'Til Valhalla' is a phrase that has its roots in Norse mythology and is often used as a sign of respect and camaraderie among warriors. It refers to meeting each other again in the afterlife destination in Norse mythology, specifically in Valhalla. The phrase has been adopted by military cultures and is often used as a way to honor fallen comrades and express a sense of loyalty.



Alvin Steifer
Jacksonville Det #1381
January 9, 2023

Jack Andrews
Sgt. Marty MJ. Gonzalez Det #1486
February 11, 2023

Larry Adkins
Rose City Det #1854
April 8, 2023

Thomas Baker
Brazoria County Det #668
May 4, 2023

Norman Toungate
Williamson Det #1022
July 12, 2023

Wayne Bare
LCpl Shane L. Goldman Det #1278
July 13, 2023



James Klager
Coastal Bend #430
August 5th, 2023

Guadalupe Gonzalez Jr.
Coastal Bend Det #430
August 9, 2023

Thomas Downey
RGV Det#1456
September 3, 2023

Larry Darr
Jacksonville Det #982
September 15, 2023

Shelby Clay
LCpl Shame L. Goldman Det
#1278
July 17, 2023



MCJROTC Royal H.S. - Wreaths Across America



Sgt MJ Marty Gonzalez-Houston



Members of the Sgt MJ. Marty Gonzalez Detachment 1485 pick up toy collections a VFW.



Members of Sgt MJ. Marty Gonzalez Detachment 1485 help sort donated toys for distribution in Tomball, TX.



Members of the M.O.D.D. Feral Dogs Pound 397 delivered toys to the children at the Texas Children's Hospital, The Woodlands, TX.



Detachment Shooting Team - Mission, TX



Detachment #1485



Detachment Shout out:
Marine Corps League Galveston Co.
Detachment 668 has a full calendar
for the upcoming year with
fundraisers, programs, and events.
This detachment is known for its
continual support for the community.
Galveston Co. was the first
detachment to start the Fallen Marine
Honors Program. Many Memorials
have been created throughout
Galveston County due to the
dedicated members of Detachment
#668. Thank you MCL Galveston
County Detachment #668 for your
outstanding service to the Marine
Corps League



Houston City Hall celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday.



Alvin HS celebrate and honor all Veterans
Veterans Day.



Detachment #668 and Charlie Company Reserve Unit



Galveston Bike Rally for Toys for Tots

Detachment #668

Galveston



2023 Annual Golf Tournament



2nd Annual 5K for Heros



2023 Marine Corps Ball Detachment #1456



San Juan City Hall Ribbon Cutting



Wreaths Across America



R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) Red Shirt Fridays Proclamation Day, City of Mission and Detachment #1456

Detachment #1456

Rio Grande Valley



Veteran's Day Observation Mission Veteran's Cemetary



Detachment #1456 Color Guard City of Mission Veteran Day Parade



1st Annual Strike First Bowling Tournament



Mission Veteran's Memorial Cemetary Burial Service.



CHOW TIME!

THE TEXAN
The Marine Corps League Texas

M.O.D.D. TEXAS PACK



WOOF WOOF



Woof Woof M.O.D.D. Texas Pack,



It has only been seven short months since your current Pack Staff committed themselves to leading the Texas Pack into 2024. Since June 2023, we have held two Pack Staff Growls via conference calls; provided a class on "Bridging the Gap between Marine Corps League and Military Order of the Devil Dogs" at the 2023 Fall Conference; had a woofing great time at the October Grand Growl and worked on getting Pounds straight with 990N filings and Incorporation matters in Texas.

Yes, your Pack Staff are dedicated to getting information moving. All Texas Dogs should know that we have been barking up many new ways to address Pack business and are ramping up a new website for the Texas Pack. Also coming soon, to our next Grand Growl, are Pack patches for purchase!

We will need your help creating the website by sharing the history of the M.O.D.D. Texas Pack, so please send us your pictures, stories and ideas to our Worthy Barking Dogs at email: moddtexaspackbarkingdog@gmail.com and moddtxpackleader@gmail.com.

Now, it would be wrong to work so hard to improve on the fun that we have in the Texas Pack and not share it with the Mongrels of the Department of Texas, so get out there and recruit those hard charging MCL members into the M.O.D.D.

Don't forget to review the Kennel website at www.moddkennel.org to download the newest M.O.D.D. Ritual and M.O.D.D. Handbook. Also available are the 2023 M.O.D.D. Bylaws. Be your own Smart Dog and go get some knowledge, WOOF WOOF!

See you at MCL Southern Division, Texarkana, AR Mar 15-16, 2024!

WOOF WOOF,
PDD Audrea Killalea
19 - 214
Worthy Pack Leader
Texas Pack



THE TEXAN
The Marine Corps League Texas



COMMANDANT
Patrick Murray



Sr. Vice Commandant
Tony Poletti



Jr. Vice Commandant
Sean Downey



Judge Advocate
Mark Oldmixon



Jr. Past Commandant
James Harvey



Paymaster/Adjutant
Rolando Hernandez



Chaplain
Gary Cleveger



Newsletter Editor
Ericka Hedlin



Communications
Johnnie Lopez



Graphic Design
German Garza



Public Affairs Officer
Tina Lockhart



Web Design
Sean Downey



Social Media/PR
Rose Conkwright





NEW Podcast



Texas MCL is now on the air! Starting January 28, 2024 Marine Veterans Mark Oldmixon and James Harvey will cohost "Texas Scuttlebutt... The Veteran Connection" on KNTH 1070 Am and 103.3 Fm every Sunday at noon. A show that honors our veterans, supports our troops, and recognizes our civilian hero's. Listen in and hear living history from our vets, learn about helpful organizations, and get Marine Corps League current news.

Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 pm to KNTH 1070 Am or 103.3 Fm for "Texas Scuttlebutt... The Veteran Connection."



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FROM THE DESK

Of the Editor

Hey Y'all!

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we embrace the new year. In the premiere issue of our newsletter, we are excited to share with you a collection of engaging articles, detachment activities, and valuable league information that aims to foster camaraderie, promote motivation, and bring together all of our Texas detachments.

One of the goals of this newsletter is the participation of league members in both league and community events. Having said that, I implore each detachment to submit the activities (pictures and activity) of your detachment. It's all about REPRESENTING the great state of Texas. To all of our detachment Commandants and PR staff, we are looking to you to get this flow of information going. If there is something we can do to help this come to fruition, let us know. We'd like to see participation on some level from every detachment. I'd also like to hear from our Auxiliary and Associate members, as you all play a very important role in our detachments. M.O.D.D. members, please submit pictures of the wonderful things that you're out there doing in the community. WOOF WOOF!

And because we all need levity in our lives, we have a Bloopers and Lafs page to showcase the silly, funny and crazy antics that happen when you get a bunch of Marines in one location. If you have a picture or two showcasing this craziness, please submit them.

We believe in the power and benefit of connection. Whether it's seeing a new and different way to fund raise, serve your community or learning more about the league, both statewide and national. Sharing ideas and knowledge is the best way to grow as an organization.

I'd like to thank German Garza, who jumped in to help me with graphics in a big way, brought great ideas and was there many times to talk me off of the ledge.

Thank you for joining us in this newest endeavor. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to creating the best newsletter in the country! Hey, go big, or go home. I look forward to meeting, speaking and connecting with many of y'all.

Please send your submissions to HedlinMCL1456@gmail.com.

Wishing you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2024.

Semper Fi,
Ericka Hedlin
Editor
956-777-2004

THE TEXAN
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